GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:548
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2016
Live Reporting of Counter Terror Incidents
Mahajan Smt. Poonam

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued stricter guidelines for prohibiting live coverage of counter-terror incidents by TV news channels in the aftermath of Pathankot terror attack;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number and name of TV channels which have aired live footage of this operation;

(c) the action taken by the Government against these TV channels; and

(d) whether the Government is considering to establish a special strategic communication and information management cell to strengthen information security protocols regarding counter-terror incidents and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING {COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

(a): The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had brought out amendments on 23.03.2015 in Rule 6 of the Cable TV Networks Rules, 1994 to prohibit live coverage of operation by security forces. Rule 6 of Programme Code was amended by inserting a clause (p) under sub Rule (1) whereby no programme should be carried in the cable service whichâ€¦
' contains live coverage of any anti-terrorist operation by security forces, wherein media coverage shall be restricted to periodic briefing by an officer designated by the appropriate Government, till such operation concludes.'

(b) & (c): As and when the report of the violation of Rule 6(1)(p) of the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 is received, action is taken. One case of alleged violation of Rule 6(1)(p) has been received against NDTV India TV channel for live coverage of Pathankot terrorist attack. A show cause notice has been issued to the TV channel.

(d): In order to implement the Cable Television Rules, 1994, the Ministry of Home Affairs has issued Advisories to the States whereby the DGP of the State concerned has been designated as appropriate authority for specifying an operation and the Spokeperson of the State Police has been made the designated officer for the purpose of briefing the media during the anti-terrorist operations.

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